BEFORE THE ARKANSAS CEMETERY BOARD

CASE NO. C-18-0007 ORDER NO. C-18-0007-18-OR01

IN THE MATTER OF:

**ROSELAWN MEMORIAL** 

GARDENS; PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

The Arkansas Cemetery Board ("Board") held its quarterly meeting on December

20, 2017, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 20-17-1005 and Rule 5 of the Rules of the

Arkansas Cemetery Board. Among the matters considered was an application for transfer

of ownership of the assets of Griffin Services, Inc. to the James M. Hawkins and Marsha

L. Hawkins ("Purchaser"). Upon consideration of the testimony of the witnesses, the

exhibits, and all other matters presented, the Board hereby finds and concludes:

**FINDINGS OF FACT** 

1. Roselawn Memorial Gardens is a perpetual care cemetery located in Pine

Bluff, Arkansas and is owned and operated by Griffin Services, Inc. Keith D. Griffin

("Seller") was the sole owner of the assets of Griffin Services, Inc. Roselawn Memorial

Gardens is licensed by the Board as a perpetual care cemetery as defined by the Cemetery

Act for Perpetually Maintained Cemeteries, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 20-17-1001 through 20-

17-1030 ("Act").

2. On December 18, 2017, the Seller and Purchaser submitted an application

to the Board proposing a transfer of ownership of Roselawn Memorial Gardens to the

Purchaser. The original application has since been supplemented to include documents

and information requested by the Staff of the Arkansas Securities Department ("Staff").

3. The Seller and Purchaser have submitted all documents and information required for a transfer of ownership of a perpetual care cemetery, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 20-17-1012(b)(2)(A)—(M) and Rule 12 of the Rules of the Arkansas Cemetery Board and meet all statutory and regulatory requirements necessary for approval of the proposed transfer of ownership except for clear title.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 4. Ark. Code Ann. § 20-17-1012(b)(1)(A) states that when a change is proposed in the controlling interest or ownership of a perpetual care cemetery or any cemetery company, the cemetery that holds the current permit and the individual or organization proposing to obtain ownership or gain control of the cemetery shall file an application for the issuance of a new permit.
- 5. An application for transfer of ownership of a perpetual care cemetery must contain certain specified fees, documents, statements, and accountings. Ark. Code Ann. § 20-17-1012(b)(2) and Rule 12 of the Rules of the Arkansas Cemetery Board.
- 6. If the Board finds that the seller and purchaser have complied with the Act and the Rules of the Arkansas Cemetery Board, the Board shall order the issuance of a new permit to the purchaser. Rule 12.07 of the Rules of the Arkansas Cemetery Board.

## ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the transfer of ownership application for Roselawn Memorial Gardens is approved conditioned upon receipt of a clear title opinion. The Staff is authorized to issue a new permit to the Purchasers for the operation of Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The Purchaser shall record the permit with the Jefferson County Clerk's office, and mail a copy to the Arkansas Department of Health.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this <u>26th</u> day of January, 2018.

ARKANSAS CEMETERY BOARD

G. Willam "Bill" Booker, II

Chairperson

Stephen E. Whitwell

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Board Member